1988 INDUCED ABORTION STATISTICS

Highlights

Total Induced Abortions

In 1988, 50,786 induced terminations of pregnancy occurred in the state of Pennsylvania, compared to a total of 51,630 procedures performed in 1987. This represents a decrease of 844 or 1.6 percent from the prior year. The 1988 figure is a 22.8 percent decrease from the 1980 total of 65,777, the highest annual number of abortions ever recorded since the first full year of data was collected in 1975. The total annual number of induced abortions consistently increased every year from 1975 to 1980. However, since 1980, the total annual number has been consistently decreasing.

Age of Woman

Over 52 percent of the induced abortions occurring in 1988 in Pennsylvania were to women 20-29 years of age. Women in their twenties accounted for 55.8 percent of all induced abortions in 1985, 55.5 percent in 1980, and 49.5 percent in 1975. Females 19 years of age and younger (teenagers) accounted for 14,106 procedures or 27.8 percent of all the induced abortions that occurred in 1988. In 1980, there were 20,202 procedures performed among teenagers accounting for 30.7 percent of the abortions that year. This represents a 30.2 percent decrease in the number of induced abortions to teenagers in 1988 as compared to 1980. Women aged 30-39 obtained 12.4 percent of all abortions performed in 1980. By 1988, they accounted for 18.1 percent, an increase of 46.0 percent. The median age of a woman having an abortion in Pennsylvania was 23.5 in 1988, 23.3 in 1985, 22.6 in 1980, and 22.3 in 1975.

Gestational Age

Almost 88 percent of all induced abortions that occurred in Pennsylvania in 1988 were performed during the first trimester (three months or twelve weeks) of pregnancy. Induced abortions were performed between the thirteenth and seventeenth week of fetal gestation for 9.9 percent of all procedures in 1988. Only 128 or 0.3 percent of the induced abortions in 1988 were performed after the twenty-second week of fetal gestation.

Type of Procedure

Almost 80 percent of induced abortions in 1988 were performed primarily by suction curettage. Another 19.0 percent of the procedures were performed primarily by dilation and evacuation. The remaining 1.0 percent were performed by sharp curettage, intra-uterine saline instillation, and intra-uterine prostaglandin instillation.

Woman's Residence

Of the 50,786 induced abortions performed in Pennsylvania during 1988, 47,802 or 94.1 percent were to residents of the state. Residents of the six states bordering Pennsylvania (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and West Virginia) accounted for 2,863 or 95.9 percent of the 2,984 procedures performed among non-residents. Among these six states, New Jersey residents had the highest number of induced abortions performed in Pennsylvania in 1988 (1,382), followed by West Virginia with 670 residents of that state obtaining abortions in Pennsylvania. Nine women from other countries obtained induced abortions in Pennsylvania during 1988.

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TABLE D-1
INDUCED ABORTIONS: PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1975-1988

YEAR	NUMBER	YEAR	NUMBER
1988	50,786	1981	62,701
1987	51,630	1980	65,777
1986	51,666	1979	64,147
1985	53,465	1978	60,639
1984	59,258	1977	57,880
1983	59,288	1976	52,261
1982	60,772	1975	43,319

TABLE D-2
INDUCED ABORTIONS BY AGE OF WOMAN
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988, 1985, 1980, AND 1975

AGE OF WOMAN	1988	1985	1980	1975
ALL AGES	50,786	53,465	65,777	43,319
UNDER 15	511	564	662	851
15-19	13,595	13,955	19,540	14,156
20-24	16,173	18,605	24,476	14,192
25-29	10,464	11,203	12,036	7,232
30-34	6,201	5,802	5,679	3,683
35-39	2,997	2,677	2,456	2,086
40-44	787	603	751	838
45 & OVER	39	35	77	97
UNKNOWN	19	21	100	184

TABLE D-3
INDUCED ABORTIONS BY WEEKS OF GESTATION
NUMBER AND PERCENT: PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

WEEKS FROM LAST MENSTRUAL PERIOD	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL	50,786	100.0
10 OR LESS	36,780	72.4
11 - 12	7,802	15.4
13 - 14	2,966	5.8
15 - 17	2,042	4.0
18 - 22	953	1.9
23 - 26	127	0.3
27 OR MORE	1	0.0
UNKNOWN	115	0.2

TABLE D-4
INDUCED ABORTIONS BY PRIMARY TYPE OF PROCEDURE
NUMBER AND PERCENT: PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

PRIMARY TYPE OF PROCEDURE	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL	50,786	100.0
SUCTION CURETTAGE	40,545	79.8
DILATION AND EVACUATION	9,643	19.0
SHARP CURETTAGE	68	0.1
INTRA-UTERINE SALINE INSTILLATION	471	0.9
INTRA-UTERINE PROSTAGLANDIN INSTILLATION	41	0.1
HYSTEROTOMY	1	0.0
HYSTERECTOMY	0	-
OTHER	17	0.0

TABLE D-5
INDUCED ABORTIONS BY RESIDENCE OF WOMAN
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

COUNTY	NUMBER	COUNTY	NUMBER
ADAMS	160	MONTOUR	30
ALLEGHENY	7,337	NORTHAMPTON	779
ARMSTRONG	142	NORTHUMBERLAND	192
BEAVER	530	PERRY	79
BEDFORD	65	PHILADELPHIA	15,269
BERKS	1,043	PIKE	29
BLAIR	226	POTTER	7
BRADFORD	8	SCHUYLKILL	361
BUCKS	2,141	SNYDER	48
BUTLER	453	SOMERSET	120
CAMBRIA	276	SULLIVAN	10
CAMERON	10	SUSQUEHANNA	8
CARBON	133	TIOGA	19
CENTRE	498	UNION	70
CHESTER	1,449	VENANGO	95
CLARION	72	WARREN	12
CLEARFIELD	138	WASHINGTON	638
CLINTON	84	WAYNE	71
COLUMBIA	147	WESTMORELAND	882
CRAWFORD	123	WYOMING	49
CUMBERLAND	642	YORK	1,007
DAUPHIN	1,222	UNKNOWN COUNTY	200
DELAWARE	2,270		
ELK	38	TOTAL PENNSYLVANIA	47,802
ERIE	268		
FAYETTE	352		
FOREST	5	OTHER STATES/COUNTRIES	
FRANKLIN	63		
FULTON	6	DELAWARE	302
GREENE	105	MARYLAND	122
HUNTINGDON	60	NEW JERSEY	1,382
INDIANA	250	NEW YORK	51
JEFFERSON	122	OHIO	336
JUNIATA	32	WEST VIRGINIA	670
LACKAWANNA	477	OTHER STATES/	
LANCASTER	1,054	TERRITORIES	87
LAWRENCE	104	UNKNOWN STATE	25
LEBANON	258	OTHER COUNTRIES	9
LEHIGH	1,028		
LUZERNE	729	TOTAL OTHER STATES/	
LYCOMING	282	COUNTRIES	2,984
MCKEAN	12		
MERCER	124		
MIFFLIN	82		
MONROE	344	TOTAL ALL ABORTIONS	50,786
MONTGOMERY	2,863		